

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

Methods for increasing defect tolerance and fault tolerance in systems  
5 containing interconnected components, in which a signal level is classified as belonging  
to one of a plurality of different, distinguishable classes based on one or more thresholds  
separating the signal-level classes, and defect-and-fault tolerant systems embodying the  
methods. An electronic-device embodiment including an array of nanowire crossbars,  
the nanoscale memory elements within the nanowire crossbars addressed through  
10 conventional microelectronic address lines, and a method embodiment for providing  
fault-tolerant interconnection interfaces with electrically distinguishable signal levels are  
described. In the described embodiment, in order to interconnect microelectronic address  
lines with the nanowire crossbars within the electronic memory, an address encoding  
technique is employed to generate a number of redundant, parity-check address lines to  
15 supplement a minimally required set of address signal lines needed to access the  
nanoscale memory elements.